

GHOST IN THE SHELL  
MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

# 攻殻機動隊

ISSUE 1 OF 11

STORY AND ART BY  
**MASAMUNE SHIROW**

TRANSLATION BY  
**FREDERIK L. SCHODT AND TOREN SMITH**

この物語に登場する  
様々な設定や解説や概  
念は全て妄想の産物で  
あり、現実とは無関係  
の娯楽物です。服用を  
誤る事無くお楽しみ頂  
ければ幸いです。  
またデッチ上げやギミ  
ックの「誤用」による  
二次被害には当方責任  
を負いかねます点を御  
了承願います。

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OPEN

MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE CONTROL PREFERENCES



# WARNING: READ ME FIRST!

Readers may note that certain panels seem to have been inadvertently left unreversed or have incongruous backwards lettering. These were artistic decisions made by Mr. Shirow during the production of the mirror-imaged foreign edition of *Man-Machine Interface*. — Dark Horse Comics and Studio Proteus

The various situations, explanations, and concepts that appear in this book are a product of my wild imagination, a form of entertainment with no connection to reality. Take according to directions, and enjoy. Be advised that the author assumes no responsibility for any collateral damage resulting from improper use of the various constructs, fabrications, and gimmicks in the story.

## APOLOGIES AND CORRECTIONS

In the *Ghost in the Shell* graphic novel published in 1991, the heroine, Motoko Kusanagi, fused with a self-described "intelligent life-form" and left Section 9 of the Public Security Bureau. This story takes place approximately four years and five months later. As a result, this story is quite different from what was originally called *Ghost in the Shell* and featured Public Security's Section 9 (the Special Assault Force). I thought of visually differentiating the new Japanese title from the old one by merely changing the last kanji character, from one that means "military unit" to the homophonic kanji for "body" or "form" (which would shift the meaning of "mobile force" or "riot squad" to something like "mobile-unit-body-entity"), but for a variety of reasons I decided not to do so. To those readers expecting a direct continuation of the prior storyline, I apologize and beg for your understanding. I'm sorry, folks!

— Masamune Shirow

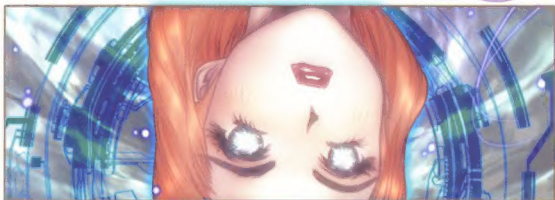
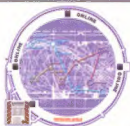
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Motoko is a hyper-advanced cyborg—her body consists of all of her active drives; her memory of all of her active sources. These are all variable, but on a periodic basis her bio components crave energy and sleep and remind her of her basic identity-layer. To her, the physical world and the world of information are both reality. All existence is life, destined to continue for the unforeseeable future.





# 攻設機動隊 2 MAN-MACHINE INTERFACE

This is a conceptual representation of the largest e-brain network Motoko can perceive, or sense. It's a complex intertwining of tendrils in what appears to be a tree-like structure, but it is actually too large to grasp in its totality. Far far off in the distance three giant lights are shining, functioning almost like a North Star. Motoko has tried several times to move closer to them but, had no success as they are too far away, and something seems to block her progress. The three lights consist of two giant orbs, and one that is about twenty percent smaller and of a different nature. There are always extremely active visual phenomena, like lightning or solar prominences, flaring back and forth among the lights.

KOUKAKU  
KIDOUTAI

W A S H I N E S H I N O W



T F T  
The Furry Triangle

IN THE PROFESSOR'S BOOK IT SAYS THE UNIVERSE BEGAN WITH AN ELEMENTAL BIG BANG, THAT IT IS NOW COOLING AND CRYSTALLIZING, AND THAT LIFE IS THE MOST EFFICIENT SYSTEM TO PROMOTE COMPLEXITY PRIOR TO FINAL CRYSTALLIZATION.

SO THE UNIVERSE WILL BE AT ITS MOST COMPLEX FORM WHEN IT'S COOLEST...



01 PROLOGUE  
2035.03.06 AM05:05

IT SEEMS LIKE A COMPLEX UNIVERSE OUGHT TO BE ACTIVE, AND HOT...

...DON'T YOU THINK?



WELL, IT'S A WORLD OF ELECTRONS AND EFFICIENCY...



"CRYSTALLIZATION" here refers to a state where complexity is no longer increasing.



INSTABILITY OCCURS EVERY THOUSAND YEARS IN THE THREE TREES OF THE JIZAITEN SPACE-TIME UNIVERSE.


YES, SIR.

YOU HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY CHOSEN FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT, O SEEKER. WE NEED YOU TO INVESTIGATE THE APPEARANCE OF ONE OF THE MOST COMPLEX PHENOMENA IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE...

WE'RE PREPARED TO INTERVENE WHEN APPROPRIATE IF THERE ARE ANY SECURITY-RELATED ISSUES...

...BUT BASICALLY WE INTEND TO LEAVE THE DECISION UP TO ISUZU, HERE.

JIZAITEN here refers to a temporal and spatial concept of the structure of the universe. It is represented by the image (or, more accurately, the reflection in the spirit realm) of three 'tree' or 'forked' structures, called sansagi. There are sixty-four strata of irrevocably ordered elements that move in precise sequences about the three trees, and one full cycle of their movement is equivalent to the life of the universe. It's certainly one of the more unique concepts to come out of the human brain.



PROFESSOR RAHAMPOL, WHO IS SAID TO BE THE CREATOR OF THOSE WHO-ARE-COMPLEX, WAS ATTACKED AND KILLED BY PIRATES ON THE OPEN SEA AFTER MEETING WITH SOME EAST INDIAN MATHEMATICIANS.

YES, WE'VE ALREADY CONFIRMED THAT THROUGH THE MDF CRUISER SHIRASU, AND SPECIAL FORCES.



AND WHAT OF THE OTHER "CREATOR"-LIKE SPIRIT?



MULTIPLE SHADOWS ARE SHIFTING, AND I CAN'T CONFIRM IT COMPLETELY, BUT...

...THERE APPEARS TO BE NO CHANGE.

AS FAR AS WE KNOW, SHE HAS ALREADY FUSED WITH FOUR KEY SPIRITS, THE MOST RECENT BEING EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO...

HER TEMPORARY POST-FUSION CHAOS SEEMS TO HAVE CEASED, AND SHE IS NOW QUITE STABLE.



SHE CALLS HERSELF **MOTOKO ARAMAKI**.

THE TIME IS APPROACHING FOR YOU TO CARRY OUT YOUR ASSIGNMENT WITH UT MOST DEVOTION.



YES, SIR.

MDF: Marine Defense Force



**N13°10'32.9 E148°22'45.6**

LOCATION: ON THE OPEN SEA, 153 MINUTES FROM THE CONTROL AREA OF THE FLOATING CITY OF POSEIDON.  
SPEED: FIFTEEN KNOTS PER HOUR.







ROCKY,  
CONAN...  
RECHECK  
THE  
E-BRAIN  
PROTEC-  
TION  
SETTINGS.

IF EVERY-  
THING'S  
OKAY, I  
WANT YOU  
TO SCAN  
FOR A  
WHITE  
TANUKI ON  
THE DECK...

A  
WHY...??

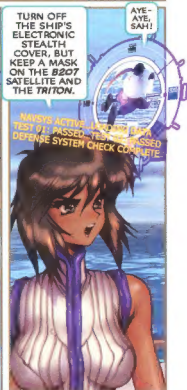
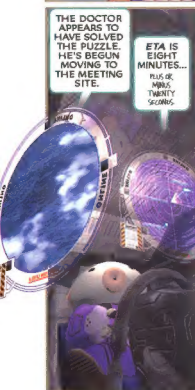
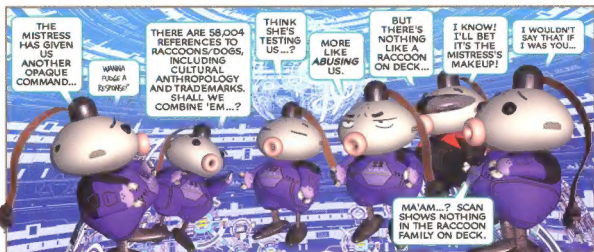


SETTINGS ALL  
OKAY. "WHITE  
TANUKI"... THAT  
SOME KIND OF  
CODE NAME?

NO, A REAL TANUKI,  
A "RACCOON DOG"...!  
YOU KNOW, LIKE THE  
ONE'S IN PICTURE BOOKS  
OF ANJAL'S?

JUST  
DO THE  
SCAN





It's easy to shrug off psychic phenomena as being "unscientific," but assuming the person experiencing them isn't totally faking it, it's probably more scientific to consider such experiences in psychological or neuro-physiological terms. They could, for example, be considered the result of "naturally-occurring magnetic or electrical phenomena that affect the brain," or they could be analyzed as a type of "mass hypnosis," etc. It's unscientific to laugh off poorly understood phenomena instead of trying to analyze them.



THE  
DOCTOR'S  
SHIP IS  
SURFACING...

IT'S THE SAME  
TYPE AS BEFORE--  
THE SEVENTH SPB  
DELIVERED TO  
THE U.S. NAVY IN  
FISCAL 2026 BY  
NMD, INC.

DOES THE  
NAVY STILL  
THINK THEY  
ORDERED AND  
PURCHASED  
SIX?

LEMME  
CHECK  
HOL  
HOL



MAYBE WE  
SHOULD  
~~ENCOURAGE~~  
OUR  
PURSUER A  
BIT, AND  
SEE HOW  
HE  
RESPONDS

THERE'S A RESIDUAL  
DISPLAY-CONVERSION  
PROGRAM IN NMD'S  
CORE E-BRAIN.  
SHALL WE DELETE  
IT FOR THEM?

THAT  
JUST  
WARNS OF  
PURSUERS  
LEAVE IT  
ALONE.





CAUTION

FLYING SHIP  
CONFIRMED AT 27°6',  
AZIMUTH 7°,  
APPARENTLY LINKING  
WITH THE DOCTOR...

IT'S A PHASED  
ARRAY  
MEASUREMENT.

FLYING  
SHIP HAS  
LAUNCHED  
TWO RRVs,  
NOW HEADED  
TOWARD US...

GUN STATION  
3 NOW  
LOCKED ON  
TARGET

THEY'RE JUST  
SCOUTING

LAST TIME  
THEY USED  
MACKEREL-  
SHAPED  
AQUATIC  
RRVs, AND  
THOSE GOT  
EATEN BY  
SHARKS.

THE DOCTOR'S  
APPROACHING  
VISUAL RANGE

RRVs  
PASSING  
OVERHEAD...  
NOW.

JUDGING  
BY THE  
RESOLUTION  
OF THEIR CCD  
CAMERAS,  
WE'VE GOT  
THE EDGE.

NOT SO  
FAST.  
REMEMBER,  
NEVER  
UNDER-  
ESTIMATE  
THE  
DOCTOR!

Normally the Robotic Reconnaissance Vehicles (RRVs) would be flying further apart, but I put them close together because it makes for a better illustration.



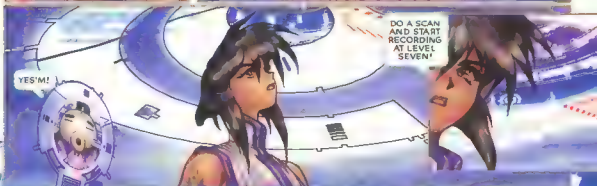
Military ships in this era are semi-submersible in style, with the upper bulwarks done in "dazzle ships" camouflage (against satellites and anti-sub craft). In emergencies, smaller ships surface and move at high speed on hydrofoils, usually using solar power generators. Many have catamaran hulls and magnetic propulsion systems. Here, the Doctor seems to be demonstrating to Motoko that he means no harm.







IT'S SURE WEIRD .



WELL

GOOD TO SEE YOU





SO. HAVE  
YOU BEEN  
USING MY  
CREATION  
WELL?

EXCUSE ME.  
FOOLISH  
QUESTION.

ANYTHING  
TO REPORT  
FROM THE  
FIELD?



SPLITTING UP  
THESE MUSCLES  
AND CREATING  
A COMPOUND  
BOWGUN WAS  
AN EXCELLENT  
IDEA.

UNDER NORMAL  
MOVEMENTS  
THE OUTPUT  
CURVE IS  
REVERSED AT  
THE HIGH END.

I WISH THE  
MINIGRENADES  
HADN'T BEEN  
SHRUNK QUITE  
SO MUCH, BUT  
I KNOW THERE  
WERE SPACE  
CONSTRAINTS.



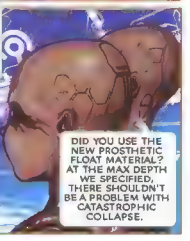
YOU COULD  
CREATE A  
SINGLE-ACTION  
PROTOTYPE  
MICROBOW FOR  
A WRIST GUARD  
AND MAKE THE  
EXPLOSIVE CORE  
HALF-SIZE...

AH, BUT  
PLAYING  
AROUND WITH  
TOO MANY  
TOYS LIKE  
THAT WOULD  
THROW YOUR  
BODY OFF-  
BALANCE.



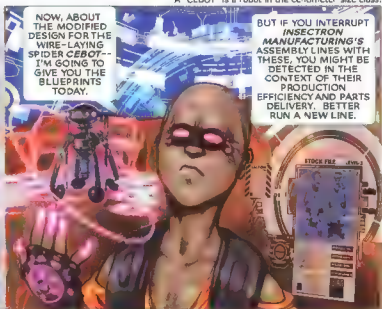
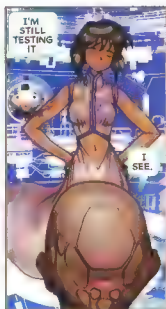
BLINDLY  
YOU COULD  
MAKE 'EM  
SO THEY  
DON'T  
AFFECT MY  
BALANCE!

PLANNING TO  
KNOCK DOWN  
FLYING  
CONNECTOR  
PLUGS WITH  
YOUR ARMS IN  
THE FUTURE...?

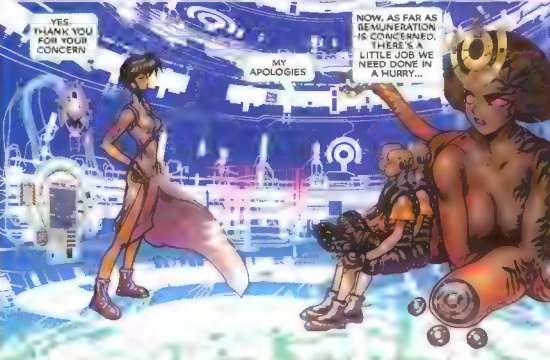


DID YOU USE THE  
NEW PROSTHETIC  
FLOAT MATERIAL?  
AT THE MAX DEPTH  
WE SPECIFIED,  
THERE SHOULDN'T  
BE A PROBLEM WITH  
CATASTROPHIC  
COLLAPSE.

A "CEBOT" is a robot in the centimeter-size class.



The "thread" referred to here is laid down to transmit signals. It's not the sort of lifeline thread a spider would use to physically connect itself to its web.







THIS IS THE SOUTH SHORE AREA OF HANAVA, AN INDUSTRIAL CITY IN CENTRAL NAJIG.

IT'S THE MANUFACTURING BASE FOR A SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL CORPORATION CALLED MATRIKA.

TWO HOURS AGO A MAJOR DEMONSTRATION WAS STAGED HERE OVER UNPAID BACK WAGES.

YOU'RE NOT SAYING I'M THE REASON MATRIKA'S HOME ROBOTS AREN'T SELLING WELL, ARE YOU? I BOUGHT AND USE THREE OF THEM!

THEIR DRAW CLEANING OIL IT IS REALLY GOOD...


NO. FORTY MINUTES AGO, AT A UNION MEETING HALL, MORE THAN TWENTY PEOPLE WERE SLAUGHTERED. IT HAS INFLAMED ETHNIC TENSIONS...

... AND IS TURNING INTO QUITE A BLOODY AFFAIR.

AND THIS IS THE GROUP POURING FUEL ON THE FIRE...

IT'S THREE PLATOONS LED BY COLONEL CHAWA, AN ETHNIC DETERMINIST FROM THE NATIONAL ARMY'S SPECIAL FORCES.

**DETERMINIST:** A general term applied to those who reject compromise and assimilation and insist that others be of a specific ethnicity, race, religion, or faction. Everyone's entitled to make harsh demands of themselves, of course, but making them of others is an unwelcome disservice.



I WANT YOU TO STOP THESE THUGS BEFORE THE PLACE FALLS INTO CIVIL WAR AND A NEIGHBORING STATE OR A UN MULTINATIONAL FORCE HAS TO INTERVENE

NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE EFFECT YOU'LL HAVE ON THE RIOT ITSELF.

BUT YOU DON'T WANT ME TO TOTALLY BLOW MY COVER AND STRENGTHEN THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCE'S POSITION, RIGHT?

ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT SO IMPORTANT.

WELL, I WON'T ASK ANY MORE QUESTIONS, THEN.

I'VE CONFIRMED THE RIOT BY SATELLITE, BOSS.

CHUI! SHIVA! GET ME INFO FROM THE UN AND THE U.S. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DELTA-VEE THE RELAY SATELLITE'S ORBIT FOR BACK-UP PLAN BETA, AND BE BATTLE-READY!

HANNIBAL! ACTIVATE DECOY "CLARA II" ON SYSLINK C.O.I. STANDBY WITH MOTO-CHAN'S BASAKA-PAK CHEMBOOST "ULTRA VIOLENCE"...

MORE DATA-- THE SOLDIERS DON'T BOTHER TO HIDE THEIR IDENTITIES BECAUSE THEY'RE AT THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN, NOT BECAUSE THEY'RE POORLY TRAINED. THEY'RE AN ELITE GROUP, AND THEY INCLUDE TWELVE SOLDIERS WITH ADVANCED PROSTHETICS.

YES, MA'AM!

NO USE WARNING HER ABOUT THAT

I'LL NEED AT  
LEAST FIVE HOURS  
BEFORE I START  
THE OP.

BY THE WAY,  
DOCTOR...THIS SORT  
OF DIRTY WORK IS  
OKAY SOMETIMES, BUT  
ONCE IN A WHILE IT'D  
BE NICE TO HAVE AN  
ASSIGNMENT THAT'S A  
LITTLE MORE ELEGANT  
AND MEANINGFUL

OH,  
REALLY. ?

WE'LL DROP  
THE REGULAR  
SUPPLIES AT  
COORDINATES

SO YOU CAN  
PICK THEM UP  
LATER.

BY THE  
WAY...WHY  
DO YOU  
ALWAYS  
INSIST ON  
BEING  
DIRECT-  
WIRED?

ME?!

AH...FORGET  
I ASKED  
GOOD LUCK  
ON THE JOB.

??



THE DOCTOR  
HAS REVERSED  
COURSE HE'S  
EJECTING  
SOME SORT  
OF CARGO AT  
COORDINATES



UM...BY THE WAY...DURING  
YOUR DISCUSSION I  
DETECTED AND BLOCKED  
FOUR DIFFERENT TYPES OF  
EXPLORATORY VIRUSES  
AND RECORDED  
SUCCESSFUL INTERCEPTS  
OF SIX TRACKING BUOYS.

RUN ANOTHER  
SEARCH FOR  
CEBOTS AND  
NANOS  
AROUND THE  
BOAT, JUST TO  
BE SURE.

MAX! RETRIEVE  
THE SUITCASE THE  
DOCTOR EJECTED  
AND CHECK IT,  
THEN RETURN OUR  
SHIP TO ITS  
ORIGINAL COURSE!

MUSASHI!  
BACK UP  
MAX!

AYE-  
AYE!

LEX!  
COMANI  
YOU CAN  
RETURN  
NOW.

MURRAH!

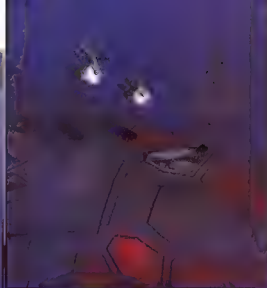
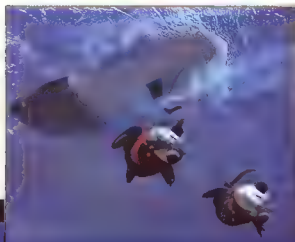
MUSASHI! SEAL  
THE MI DECOT, AND  
DO A 1MW PERIPHERY  
CLEAN-UP PULSE!

THEN AFTER  
DELIVERING THE  
SUITCASE, RETURN THE  
SHIP TO ITS PREVIOUS  
COURSE AND  
CRUISING SPEED!

SO MANY  
COMMANDS  
AT ONCE..

UP TO MI  
REMOTE OFFLINE  
COUNT 00.00

DECOT: A word derived from "decoy" and "robot," normally used to refer to remotely controlled prosthetic bodies, etc. Coined during wartime, it's not the perfect term in this case, but it's commonly used in Motoko's world.



RETURN  
COMPLETE



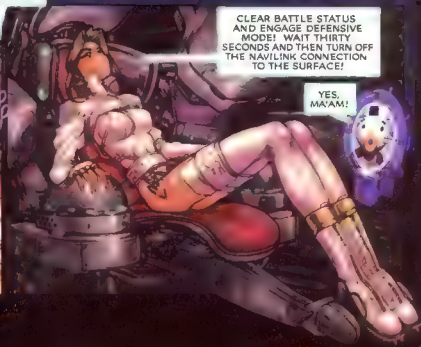
SWITCHING  
MAIN  
SYSTEM  
BACK TO  
NORMAL.

GIVE ME  
A SYSTEM  
CHECK  
REPORT



CLEAR BATTLE STATUS  
AND ENGAGE DEFENSIVE  
MODE! WAIT THIRTY  
SECONDS AND THEN TURN OFF  
THE NAVILINK CONNECTION  
TO THE SURFACE!

YES,  
MA'AM!



Note: The "P.I. UNIT" lettering has been left reversed at Mr. Shirow's request.

THE DOC  
THINKS I  
LIKE BEING  
WIRED, EH?  
WONDER IF  
HE DETECTED  
THIS SHIP-  
SUB LINK?

CONAN! ADD  
THE DOCTOR'S  
LATEST REQUEST TO  
HIS PREVIOUS ONES,  
AND ESTIMATE HIS  
DEBT/EQUITY  
POSITION BASED ON  
THE ADVANTAGES  
HE ACCRUES

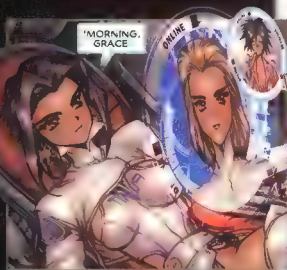
HONORED  
TO DO SO,  
KIND  
MISTRESS

GOT A CALL FROM  
EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY GRACE  
AT POSEIDON

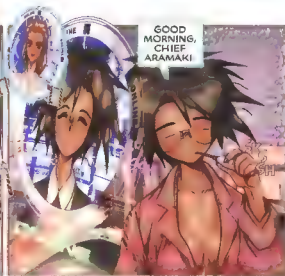
IT'S THE  
REGULAR  
MORNING  
BRIEFING.  
STILL, BETTER  
RUN IT  
THROUGH THE  
ARMORED  
VPN

ALL CLEAR. NOW  
CONNECTING..

PROTECTED BY  
ACCESS



'MORNING,  
GRACE



GOOD  
MORNING,  
CHIEF  
ARAMAKI



THERE'S BEEN A  
CHANGE IN TODAY'S  
PLANS. AN URGENT  
EXECUTIVE MEETING  
IS BEING CONVENED  
AT 08:05 REGARDING  
THE FOLLOWING  
URGENT EVENT--

--AT 07:42 HOURS, HQ  
TIME, A LEVEL ORANGE  
DESTRUCTIVE INCIDENT  
TOOK PLACE AT  
MEDITECH BHEREL'S  
EASTERN MONNABIA  
PLANT #2.



THE HLF  
UP TO THEIR  
TRICKS  
AGAIN, hmm?  
SO HAS THE  
RESPONSE  
PROGRAM  
BEEN  
INITIATED?

IT'S  
FUNCTIONING  
PERFECTLY!



I'LL  
FORWARD THE  
IN-PROCESS  
MATERIALS.  
WHAT DO YOU  
WANT TO DO  
ABOUT  
SUBMITTING  
THEM TO THE  
EXECUTIVE  
MEETING?



RUN THEM THROUGH  
AS IS, BUT SET THE  
EXPRESSION LEVEL  
SO THE RISK GRAPHS  
HAVE A BIT MORE OF  
A PSYCHOLOGICAL  
AND VISUAL EFFECT.

BUT DON'T  
OVERDO IT!  
THEY ARE  
EXPERTS,  
AFTER ALL.

OH, AND  
INVITE **LEBRIS**,  
THE MEDITECH  
JUNIOR  
PROJECT  
LEADER, TO  
THE EXECUTIVE  
MEETING.





I'LL TRY  
TO DO A  
FOLLOW-  
UP SURVEY  
BETWEEN  
08:03 AND  
09:00.

FINE. I'LL GO  
AHEAD AND  
RESCHEDULE  
YOUR MEETING  
WITH MR. OH  
OF THE  
EJUNOZAI  
COMPANY

I RECORDED THE  
"ONE HUNDRED  
PEOPLE, ONE  
HUNDRED SHAPES"  
LECTURE GIVEN  
BY PROFESSOR  
REPLIANO ON  
NWNW, AND PUT IT  
IN THE QUEUE.

ANY  
MAJOR  
GAFFES  
THIS  
TIME...?

WELL, LOOKING  
AT THE COMPLAINTS  
RECEIVED AFTER  
THE SHOW, THEY  
WERE ALL WITHIN  
THE USUAL LIMITS.

I ENCLOSED ALL RELATED  
MATERIALS IN THE FILE

A BIT OF A  
PROBLEM  
"WITHIN THE  
USUAL LIMITS"  
WOULD  
ACTUALLY BE  
BETTER...

...ESPECIALLY  
SINCE HE'S  
THE MAN IN  
CHARGE OF  
RELIGIOUS  
ISSUES AT  
OUR PRECIOUS  
POSEIDON  
INDUSTRIAL  
COMPANY



MISTRESS...?  
WE'RE HAVING  
DIFFICULTY  
PINNING DOWN  
THE DOCTOR'S  
POSITION.  
FACTORY  
OFFSETTING IT  
AVERAGE 32%...

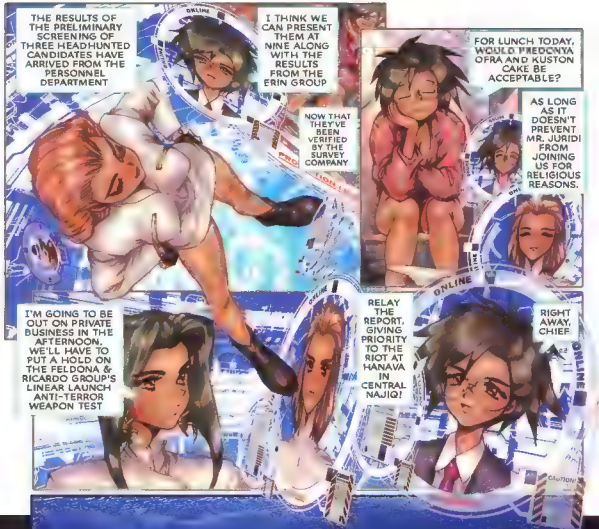
OKAY

LEX! KEEP CRUISING  
UNDERWATER AND  
DOING PULSE CLEANING  
FOR THIRTY MINUTES,  
THEN FULL SPEED FOR  
HEADQUARTERS

CONAN!  
STAND BY  
FOR ENTRY  
TO HQ  
AREA 7B!

YES'M!





THE RESULTS OF  
THE PRELIMINARY  
SCREENING OF  
THREE HEADHUNTED  
CANDIDATES HAVE  
ARRIVED FROM THE  
PERSONNEL  
DEPARTMENT

I THINK WE  
CAN PRESENT  
THEM AT  
NINE ALONG  
WITH THE  
RESULTS  
FROM THE  
ERIN GROUP

NOW THAT  
THEY'VE  
BEEN  
VERIFIED  
BY THE  
SURVEY  
COMPANY

FOR LUNCH TODAY,  
WOULD FREDCNYA  
OFRA AND KUSTON  
CAKE BE  
ACCEPTABLE?

AS LONG  
AS IT  
DOESN'T  
PREVENT  
MR. JURIDI  
FROM  
JOINING  
US FOR  
RELIGIOUS  
REASONS.

I'M GOING TO BE  
OUT ON PRIVATE  
BUSINESS IN THE  
AFTERNOON.  
WE'LL HAVE TO  
PUT A HOLD ON  
THE FELDONA &  
RICARDO GROUP'S  
LINEAR LAUNCH  
ANTI-TERROR  
WEAPON TEST

RELAY  
THE  
REPORT,  
GIVING  
PRIORITY  
TO THE  
RIOT AT  
HANAVA  
IN  
CENTRAL  
NAJIQ!

RIGHT  
AWAY,  
CHIEF

THAT'S  
ALL FOR  
NOW,  
GRACE



2035.03.06.AM05:45

N26°04'12.2 E162°47'00.2

LOCATION: 11 MINUTES FROM THE CONTROL AREA OF  
THE FLOATING CITY OF POSEIDON

SPEED: FIFTEEN KNOTS PER HOUR, SUBMERGED



YOU MEAN  
STATISTICS IS JUST  
ANOTHER TYPE OF  
ASTROLOGY?!

AH, MISTRESS! WE'VE DISCOVERED  
A SUSPICIOUS SHIP! WE'RE PUTTING  
THE DATA TOGETHER NOW... ONE OF  
OUR TOP COMMANDOS IS  
PREPARING TO LAUNCH RIGHT AWAY.

DON'T FORGET MY  
REPAIRS LATER!

WHAT  
WAS  
THAT...?

LOOKS LIKE THEY  
WON'T NOTICE US...  
POP AN ANTENNA  
BUOY AND  
APPROACH THEM  
FROM THE STERN.  
STAND BY...

TARGET  
CENTER  
X: 0000M  
Y: -050M  
Z: -810M  
+005M

ER,  
MISTRESS...  
WE ARRIVE  
IN AREA 7B  
IN FIVE  
MINUTES..

This is an extremely quiet environment. The ship uses noise-canceling superconductive ram propulsion and has auxiliary muscle-powered wings. All conversation takes place within the participants' e-brains (and is thus inaudible). And active sonar is rarely used in this age.



CHANGE  
OF PLANS.  
HOLD OFF  
ON AREA  
7B

# IKURA, CLASS 244 MILOV

STANDARD  
DISPLACEMENT  
LENGTH  
SURFACE SPEED  
UNDERWATER  
SPEED  
LAUNCH TUBES

1700 TONS  
60 METERS  
16 KNOTS

32 KNOTS (NOW 5 KNOTS)  
4 (NOW ARMED)

INTERCEPTION SCENARIOS  
POTENTIAL ARMAMENTS

CREW 32 STANDARD, DETAILS UNKNOWN  
MAXIMUM SAFE DIVE DEPTH (OFFICIAL) 900 METERS  
PASSIVE SONAR- BQQ-6, PLUS TASS CABLE  
(UNCONFIRMED)

ACTIVE SONAR- "DOLPHIN" TYPE (POWERED DOWN)

2032 SHIP FIRST LAUNCHED

2034-05 VANISHES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

2034 11 PIRATE ACTIVITIES OBSERVED

2035-01 SIGHTED IN WATERS OFF SYDNEY

SHIP HAS GRAFFITI ON HULL

CONDITION OF EXTERIOR GOOD TO AVERAGE  
(PRESSURE WARPING IN SPOTS HIGHLIGHTED)

NO APPLICABLE FILE AVAILABLE, F IN POSITION D

REF: 1000000000

PIRATE  
ACTIVITIES  
IN THE  
SOUTH  
CHINA  
SEA...?  
SEEMS  
AWFULLY  
OUT OF  
PLACE  
HERE.

I WONDER IF  
THEY'RE HERE  
SCOUTING  
BECAUSE  
SOME CARGO  
ROUTES WERE  
CHANGED...  
hmm

OKAY,  
"VOLUNTEER  
COMMANDO,"  
IT'S TIME TO  
LAUNCH

I WANT YOU TO  
ATTACH A  
PHYSICAL LINE AND  
A COUPLE GPS  
MINES TO THE SHIP  
AND THEN RETURN

AYE-AYE,  
CAP'N!

~BLBB~  
~BLRB~

DANN



Newer torpedoes are designed to swim out of their launch tubes, so the noise previously generated during firing by the compressed-air "blow" is no longer a problem. In this case they're also using water currents generated by the propulsion system to augment initial speed. (In other words, the launch tubes also have vectored-thrust nozzles on them.) I should also mention the reason that neither ship has bubble makers is because I decided it wouldn't look good visually.

ATTACH THE  
DATALINE TO THEIR  
TOWED ANTENNA,  
AND DEPOSIT OUR  
LITTLE GIFTS ON THE  
SIDE VENTS NEAR  
THE SUB'S ELEVATOR  
PLANES.

GOTCHA,  
BOSS

VLF ANTENNA FEED HATCH

STARLIGHT VIEW

GUESS WE DO HAVE  
TO ATTACH IT IF WE  
WANT IT TO WORK  
UNDERWATER.  
SORRY, MA'AM.

FORGIVEN

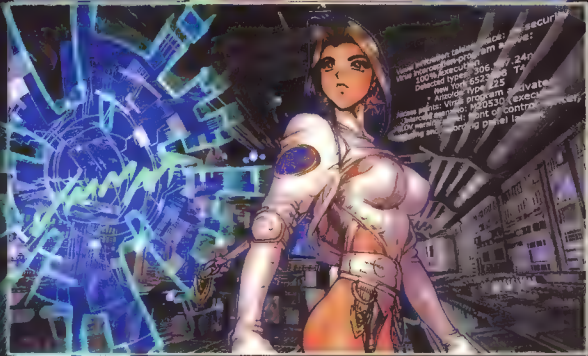
WE DO BETTER  
THIS TIME

COMM DEVICE  
HAS FLOATED  
UP, ALONG  
WITH DECREASE  
IN SHIP SPEED.  
SETTING  
SATELLITE  
ARRAY... NOW  
ACTIVATED.

BARRIERS, 11...  
DECOYS, 8...  
SUPPORTS, 2.  
STAND BY!

NOW... LET'S  
JUST HOPE  
THEIR COMM  
SPECIALIST'S  
AN IDIOT WITH  
A LOW-RES  
E-BRAIN...

VLF: Very Low Frequency



Hmph...THAT KIND OF BARRIER MAZE IS WORTHLESS. MIGHT AS WELL DELETE THE ALARMS, TOO.

CHEAP MODS... I LIKE THIS!





WE'VE ENTERED  
POSEIDON'S CONTROL  
SECTOR FOUR. SAFETY  
SENSORS ALL CLEAR.  
NO CHANGE IN  
SURROUNDING  
CONDITIONS


TARGET  
PROCEEDING IN  
SUBMERGED MODE  
TWO MINUTES TO  
RETRIEVAL OF VLF  
ANTENNA.



DAMN...  
WOULDN'T  
YOU KNOW IT?  
NO SPECIFIC  
PLAN OF  
ACTION...NO  
OP RECORD  
EITHER.

JUST THE  
BORING OLD  
NAV LOGS...  
SHOULD I  
PULL IT?

AH, WAIT  
A SEC--HERE'S  
THE CREW  
RECOGNITION  
FILE!



RUN A  
CHECK ON  
THESE GUYS  
THROUGH  
THE MILITARY  
AND POLICE  
CRIMINAL  
DATA BASES  
OF ALL  
NATIONS  
AROUND THE  
SOUTH CHINA  
SEA, ON THE  
**DOUBLE!**

The slack in the wire is (supposed) to indicate the ship is slowing. The wire linking the pirate sub with Motoko's is for hacking purposes. There's a buoy on the end of the one trailing out the back of her sub, allowing UHF global connections via satellite.





A FLOAT'S  
BEING  
REPLACED AT  
12 DEGREES  
SOUTH, 700  
METERS.

TRIGGER A  
FALSE  
EMERGENCY  
EVAC FROM  
GAS  
EMISSIONS



QUERY  
NOW 80%  
COMPLETE.  
THREE NON-  
SPECIFIC  
HITS, ONE  
UNCLEAR

NO RESPONSE  
ON ANTIVIRUS  
BARRIERS  
OR OTHER  
OBSTACLES.

WHEN YOU FINISH,  
FORWARD THAT  
FILE TO POSEIDON  
SECURITY.

UNDER A  
PSEUDONYM,  
OF COURSE.



BUT DON'T  
SEND  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT THE  
SUB. YET

YEAH



HEY!  
WHAT'RE  
YOU  
DOIN',  
MAN?



WHAT  
THE... AW.  
SHIT!!

ARGH.  
NOT MY  
LUCKY  
DAY



I SHOULD  
HAVE  
DIVED IN  
DEEPER

RUN HIM FROM  
INSIDE HIS  
PERSONALITY.





HEY, CAP'N,  
SIR! WE GOT  
INFILTRATED  
BY ONE O' THEM  
E-BRAIN  
HACKERS.

I SLAMMED  
HIM ONE  
GOOD...  
-SH-ASH-

AN E-BRAIN  
HACKER...? IN THE  
MIDDLE OF THE  
OCEAN? YOU SURE  
IT'S NOT JUST  
HUDNALL GOOFING  
WITH THE SECURITY  
SYSTEMS AGAIN?



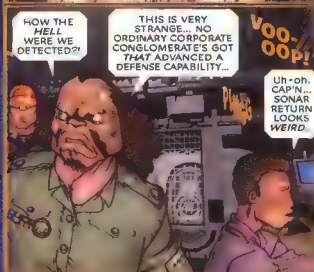
WAIT A  
SEC... MAYBE  
WE'VE BEEN  
HARD WIRED!!

ACTIVE SONAR PING  
AT MAX! GET US A  
FIRING SOLUTION!

MIGHT  
BE A  
DIVER.



SO FAR,  
SO  
GOOD...



HOW THE  
HELL  
WERE WE  
DETECTED?

THIS IS VERY  
STRANGE... NO  
ORDINARY CORPORATE  
CONGLOMERATE'S GOT  
THAT ADVANCED A  
DEFENSE CAPABILITY...

voo-  
oop!

Uh-oh.  
CAP'N...  
SONAR  
RETURN  
LOOKS  
WEIRD.

Normally Motoko wouldn't have to cover her ears to protect them from the active sonar ping, because she can block the sound through software. (On the other hand, it's always good to protect your eardrums.) She probably didn't want to lose her passive sonar link with the pirate sub, since re-linking might allow a hacker to infiltrate using sound.



OKAY, STOP  
OPENING OUR  
RANGE CHANGE  
COURSE TO USE  
THE FLOATS AS  
A SHIELD

AYE-AYE,  
SAH!



PLACE TWO  
ACTIVE DECOYS  
JUST IN FRONT OF  
OUR TORPEDO  
LAUNCH TUBE  
OPENINGS!  
RELEASE SAFETY  
LOCKS ON THEM  
AND ON THE  
MINES!

SAFETY  
LOCKS ON  
OPERATIONAL  
EXPLOSIVES  
ARE RELEASED!  
STANDING BY  
TO DETONATE!

Commands for decoys are issued using audio frequencies.



NOW  
STAND  
BY!



?!?  
WHAT  
THE HELL?!  
THE SENSORS  
HAVE ALL  
GONE  
SCREWY!

AW, SHIT!  
ALL SYSTEMS  
ARE GOING  
DOWN!  
BREAKERS  
POPPING!



HA HA HA HA



SWITCH  
TO  
MANUAL!!

FORGET THE  
ELECTRONICS!!



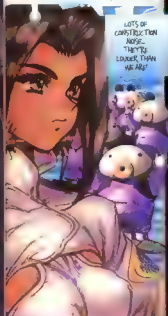
BACKUP  
POWER  
COMING  
ON LINE..  
WHAT TH--?  
HEY!!

CUT THE  
DAMN LINK  
CABLE!  
NOW!!

OBSERVATION  
TEAM! SCAN  
THE WORDS  
COMING FROM  
INSIDE THE  
TARGET SHIP  
AND EVALUATE  
THEIR  
RESPONSE.

UM, IT'S A  
TYPE D,  
CURRENTLY  
RANGING  
IN STRESS  
RANK  
BETWEEN  
12 AND 13.

LOTS OF  
CONSTRUCTION  
NOISE..  
THEY'RE  
LOUDER THAN  
WE ARE!



DAMN IT!  
WE'VE  
SCREWED!

RAISE  
THE COMM  
ANTENNA.  
MAKE AN  
EMERGENCY  
REPORT TO  
SECURITY

B-BUT.. WHAT IF  
LOCAL PATROLS  
AND CONTROLS  
ARE  
INTENSIFIED..?



DON'T  
WORRY.  
IT'LL  
WORK  
OUT

HEY?! WHO  
THE HELL JUST  
EVACUATED?!



WELL, SHIT!  
DUNNO  
WHAT'S  
GOING ON,  
BUT DAMNED  
IF I'M  
GONNA SINK  
WITHOUT  
KICKING  
SOME ASS!

MARGHERITA!  
CHECHILIA!  
ACTIVATE  
WITH "CREW"  
PROGRAM!

YES,  
SIR

ONE  
SECOND  
SIR

I WANT YOU TO  
MANUALLY RELEASE  
THE SAFETY ON EACH  
TORPEDO TUBE!  
THEN FIRE 'EM ALL  
AROUND US!

PLEASE  
DEFINE  
"ALL  
AROUND  
US."

DO YOU  
WANT AUTO  
SETTINGS. ?

YES, BUT  
DON'T  
SHOOT THE  
ESCAPE  
PODS!  
SWITCH ON  
THE IFF!



Torpedoes are normally loaded automatically. Let's assume these hatches are normally used to remove torpedoes, not to load new ones. The sailorette with her hands on the hatch is doing a safety check. (Of course, these sailorettes are really stolen goods, probably designed to be on-board waitresses...or something.) It's a submarine, so no alarms are ringing even though the emergency lights are on.

For the record, this takes into account the possibility that the GPS mines might be duds.

WE'VE DETECTED THE SOUND OF THE TARGET SHIP'S TORPEDO LAUNCH TUBES BEING FLOODED!

YOU GET OKAY NUMBERS FOR REFLECTED SHOCK? PUT TWO DECOYS ON STANDBY, JUST TO BE SURE.

AT THIS DISTANCE WE OUGHT TO BE ALL RIGHT...

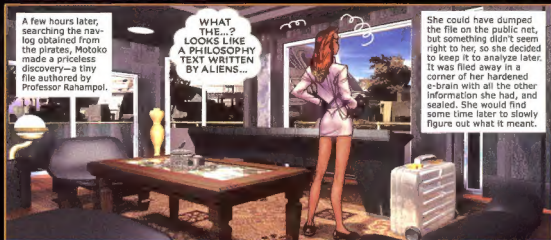
SON OF A BITCH RAT BASTARDS! I AIN'T GOIN' DOWN WITH MY SHIP!

FIRE!





## P.M.12:46 MOTOKO'S OFFICE



TO BE CONTINUED...

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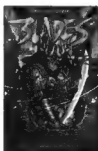
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